

March 14, 1952

Next two meetings: March 19
and April 2, 8pm, Student
Union Building, University
of Washington campus.



TABLEAU I

(THIS DEPICTS THE HEART OF THE
CLUB FEELING THE THANKS)

LAST MEETING AND NEXT

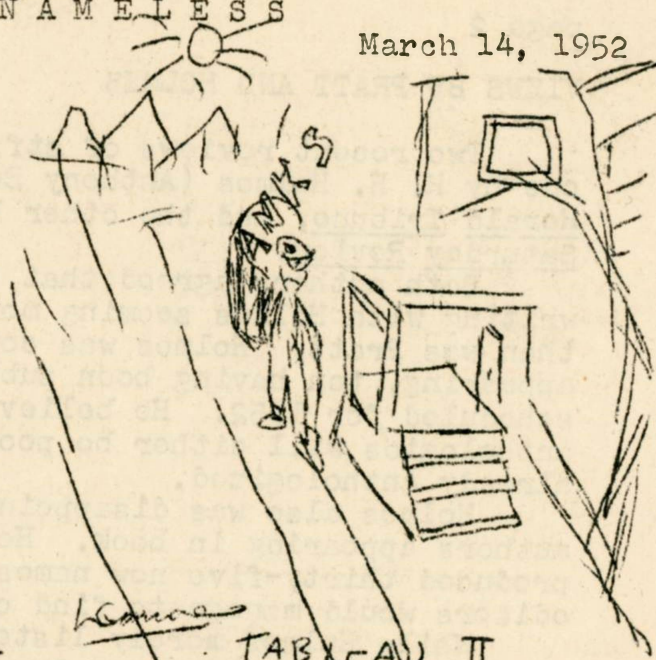


TABLEAU II

(DELIVERY OF THE
THANKS TO THE BARKERS)

Mr. and Mrs. Barker have the club's most heartfelt thanks for making the trip up from Tacoma to show some of Phil's color slides last meeting. With few exceptions the slides were excellent photography (this despite the fact that Phil uses no light meter and never operated a camera before his trip to India) and held our interest even in those cases where no one knew anything about the places that appeared in the pictures. Phil, of course, is still in India and could not give us first-hand information. Several members strained to read the various signs that appeared in some of the pictures and found one in English—"No Parking." Mr. and Mrs. Barker and Dick Frahm were able to add information to the slides in many cases as to the history, location, and functions of many of the buildings in the pictures. Of most personal interest to the club was one slide taken of Phil himself. Those who were not able to attend the meeting have certainly missed some marvelous pictures, and we hope Mr. and Mrs. Barker will be able to show more of them at some future meeting.

After the slides were shown, nominations were opened for new officers. Ted Ross and Ed Wyman were nominated for president; Mark Walsted and Buryl Payne for vice president; Wally Weber for corresponding secretary; Carlene Bosselman and Ed Wyman for recording secretary. Elections are to be held next meeting (March 19) and additional nominations may be made at that time, also. Alderson Fry declined a nomination as vice president on the grounds that he was already permanent librarian for the club. G. M. Carr declined a nomination as corresponding secretary on the grounds that she was quite swamped with her present fan activities. Buryl Payne and Carlene Bosselman were not present at the nominations to defend themselves.

The elections will be the principle business for the next meeting and will be followed by the usual chatting, auction, program, and/or whatever else might turn up. How about being there?

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VIEWS BY PRATT AND HOLMES

Two recent reviews of sf books for the past year have come out; one by H. H. Holmes (Anthony Boucher) in the February 17 San Francisco Herald Tribune, and the other by Fletcher Pratt in the February 23 Saturday Review.

Both authors agreed that science fiction suffered from much poor writing with Holmes seeming more pleased over the improvements made than was Pratt. Holmes was concerned over the number of anthologies appearing, ten having been published in 1951 and fifteen already scheduled for 1952. He believed the result of such a large number of anthologies will either be poorer quality or repetition of stories already anthologized.

Holmes also was disappointed in the lack of new science fiction authors appearing in book. He pointed toward the whodunit field which produced thirty-five new names in 1951 and hoped science fiction editors would manage to find one or two at least during 1952.

While Holmes merely listed seventeen books he considered the best in imaginative literature for the year, Pratt actually criticized a great many volumes. "The Blind Spot," by Austin Hall & Homer Eon Flint, "Seeds of Life," by John Taine, "Tomorrow and Tomorrow," by Lewis Padgett, "Slan," by A. E. Van Vogt, "Time and Again," by Clifford D. Simak, and "Seetee Ship," by Will Stewart were some that he criticized severely. Most of his complaints centered about the use of stock characters, although "Tomorrow and Tomorrow" was criticized only because it required a background of science fiction to make it intelligible to the average reader. Pratt considered "Slan" to be a story of a comic strip Superman while Holmes included the book on his list of favorites. Pratt tempered his remarks on the book editions of some of the older pulp reprints by saying they had been good stories when first printed but that they could not stand up to modern standards.

Both Holmes and Pratt agreed that "Possible Worlds of Science Fiction," edited by Groff Conklin, and "New Tales of Space and Time," edited by Raymond J. Healy were the best of the anthologies with the latter being the very best. In describing "The Best Science Fiction Stories of 1951," edited by Everett F. Bleiler and T. E. Dikty, both reviewers used the term "uneven" and agreed the volume was below previous Bleiler-Dikty standards although still a good anthology. Pratt commented favorably upon "The Outer Reaches," edited by August Derleth, which Holmes did not include in his list.

Holmes had a special favorite not mentioned by Pratt, "The Devil in Velvet," by John Dickson Carr. He said the author drew "time travel from science fiction, black magic from the weird tale, swash-buckling romance from the historical novel and logical deduction from Mr. Carr's own model detective stories..."

Pratt commented on "Gray Lensman," by E. E. Smith, and "Bullard of the Space Patrol," by the late Malcolm Jameson, by admitting the use of stock characters but pointing out the movement of the stories that had something new happening on every page. He recommended them for a teen-age audience along with another book, "Kinsmen of the Dragon," by Stanley Mullen. He also mentioned that "Kinsmen of the Dragon," although fantasy, was labeled as science fiction by the publisher who finds science fiction more popular among readers than fantasy.

Books that Pratt believed to be written for adult appreciation, with minor reservations, were "Wine of the Dreamers," by John D. MacDonald, "Foundation," by Isaac Asimov, "The House of Many Worlds,"

by Sam Merwin Jr., and "The Puppet Masters," by Robert A. Heinlein. Wilson Tucker's "The City in the Sea" was recommended unconditionally. Pratt praised Fredric Brown's "Space on My Hands," but deplored the fact that only his science fiction and none of his fantasy appeared in it.

Holmes included "The Puppet Masters" in his list along with two other Heinlein books, "Between Planets," and "The Green Hills of Earth." He explained his inclusion of all three by stating, "It's impossible to omit any volume by the man who is to science fiction what John Dickson Carr is to the detective story."

"Fancies and Goodnights," a collection of fantasies by John Collier, was rated excellent by both reviewers. Holmes went so far as to say, "It's doubtful if any other fantasy author in history has ever published one single volume containing so many stories of the first rank."

Pratt mentioned "The Holy Sinner," by Thomas Mann, as a fantasy and judged it disappointing.

Books included in Holmes' list not already mentioned are: "The Fabulous Wink," by Ken Bennett; "The Illustrated Man," by Ray Bradbury; "Prelude to Space," by Arthur C. Clarke; "Rogue Queen," by L. Sprague de Camp; "The Black Fox," by Gerald Heard; "The Lost Years," by Oscar Lewis; "The Disappearance," by Philip Wylie; "The Day of the Triffids," by John Wyndham.

MOON MINERS

The following is the complete article that appeared under the heading, "First Claim on the Moon," in the San Francisco Chronicle February 27, 1952.

"The world is growing smaller!" Lester Cole of 614 Norvell street, El Cerrito noted yesterday and then he made a great assortment of science fiction sounds. "The whole universe is!! And we're taking no chances. We have filed a claim with the United Nations for miners' rights on the moon."

Lester Cole, speaking in behalf of the Elves' Gnomes & Little Men's Science Fiction Chowder & Marching Society of Berkeley, explained that sylvanite might well be located in an area around a crater known as Ritter D.

"Sylvanite is a telluride of gold and silver, that's why we want the UN to get the lead out. With the advances made in rocketry during the last ten years, our claim cannot be considered premature."

"We've written President Truman about the matter. The Army has already laid its plans, you know, and we want to learn what he feels regarding our claim on the moon."

Take-off time for the first flight to the moon may be a trifle indefinite, but not the map which accompanied the claim the society sent to Oscar Schachter of the U. N. Legal Department in New York city.

"It is accurate within five linear miles on the moon's surface, you don't have to worry about that, but what we want to establish is the manner in which territorial jurisdiction of the planets is going to be handled."

Cole admitted that there are certain details regarding the mining operation which could prove perplexing to his organization. Temperatures on the moon vary from extreme heat to extreme cold; there is also neither air nor water. But the Elves, Gnomes and Little Men are devoting many serious hours to these problems, which may interfere with the Chowder and Marching aspects of their life.

The society is made up of university students, a few high school students and professional people interested in science fiction.

LETTER FROM ATLANTA

Feb. 24, 1952

Dear Wally,

Thanks for the Feb. 1st issue of the CRY.

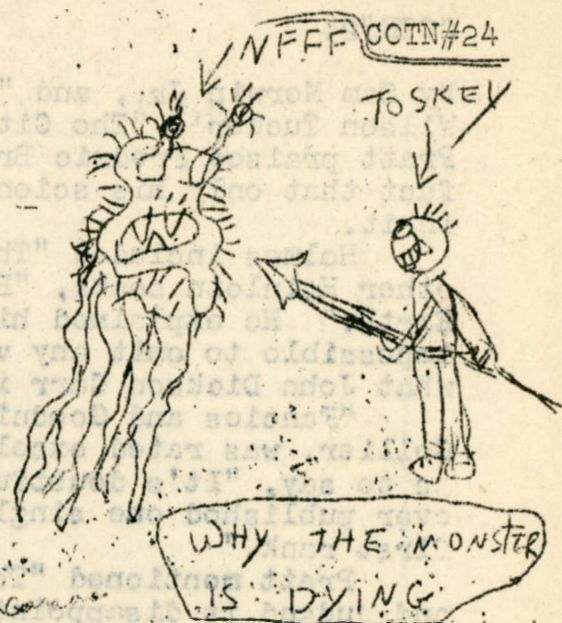
Please inform your readers and particularly G. M. Carr that Cosmag never called the National Fantasy Fan Federation a "dying monster." Rather, W. Paul Ganley in his article in the November issue of C/SFD expressed his opinion of the NFF, the above quotation. And if, you remember, Gertrude, the opinions expressed within articles are not necessarily those of the editor or any persons other than the author mentioning the opinions.

I think highly of the NFF, that is why I am a member of that fine organization. I wish Mrs. Carr luck with her new position.

Sincerely,

Ian T. Macauley.

57 E. Park Lane, NE
Atlanta 5, Ga.



MAILING LIST REVISIONS

additions: Richard C. Brauer; Ronald Andre Van De Voorde, and Ellsworth E. Dailey, all of 721 9th Ave., Seattle, Wash.; Joseph V. Mead, 1741 12th Ave. So., Seattle, Wash.; and Gordon & Ruth Loomis; 814 E. 43rd, Seattle 5, Wash.

corrections: Frank Faget, 1102 Roanoke, Seattle 2, Wash.

subtractions: Pfc R. B. Ellington RA9321879, FS 8609th AAU, c/c P.M., San Francisco, Calif. (correct address unknown—CRY returned); and R. N. Willet, 1320 Alki Ave., Seattle 6, Wash. (Moved—no new address—postcard pleading that we send no more CRYs).

IMPOSSIBLE OUT!

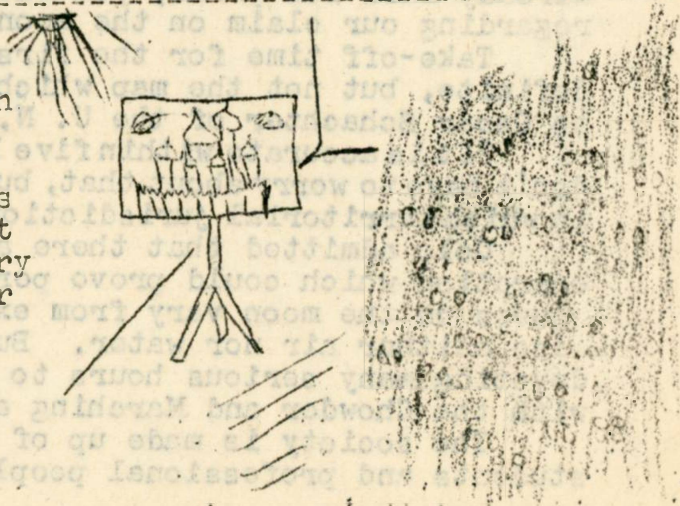
The long-awaited Impossible #5, ninety-plus pages of it, has received its color lithographed covers and is ready for distribution. Copies at 10¢ per are available from Burnett Toskey, 3933 15th Ave. NE, Seattle 5, Wash., or at the next meetings of the Nameless Ones.

THE LIGHT THAT WOULD NOT GO OUT

The most peculiar things go on at Nameless meeting—and once on, they just will not go out.

The room to which the Nameless had been assigned at first was next to a room containing campus military men and was therefore too noisy for our use. We obtained a new room after some trouble and thought our problems were solved. They were, until we attempted to turn out the lights to show the color slides.

(continued on next page)



(continued from page 4)

Turning out lights would seem to be a simple enough task. There were just two switches by the door which we operated in the accepted manner. All the lights obediently darkened with the exception of the one by the door. Easily enough explained, of course. Obviously that light was operated by a switch outside the door.

Obvious as that fact was, the switch outside the door was not. Confidence that all was yet well began to waver as one Nameless after the other sought the missing switch. It soon became evident that the only available switches were those just inside the door, and the most merciless joggling of those failed to knock off the most microscopic candle-power of that one stubborn light.

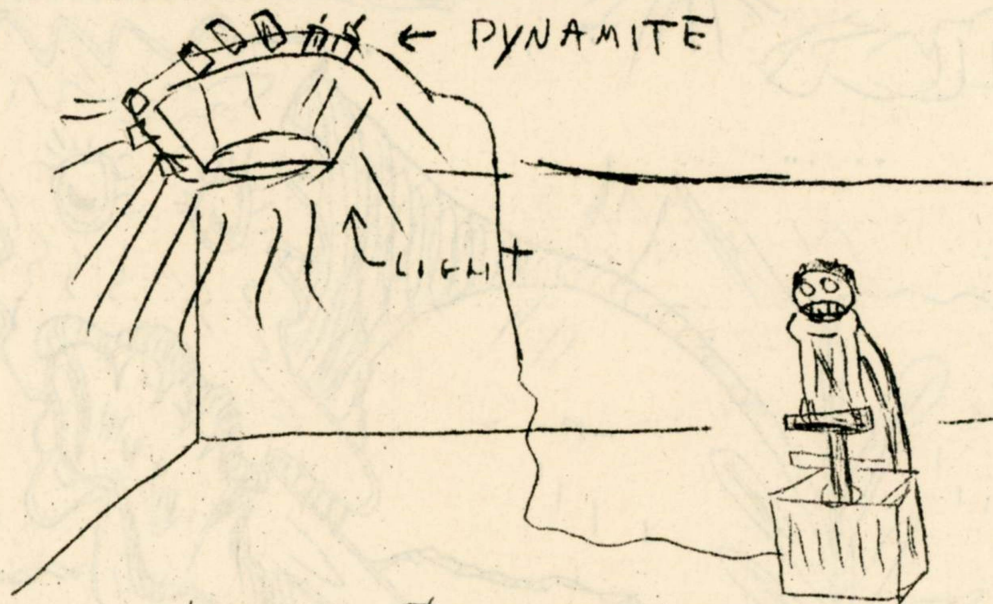
The search began branching out. One promising little door set in a wall of the room looked as though it might have been concealing some sort of electrical apparatus, and practically every Nameless in the room peered in at the night watchman's clock behind that door before giving up the search.

Eventually we were forced to humble ourselves before the man at the information desk, naively expecting him to know what could be done. The man armed himself with a huge ring of keys and raised our hopes by explaining he was looking for the switchbox. (He, too, eventually got to look at the night watchman's timeclock.) We knew we were licked, however, when the man arrived at the end of his keys and left in search of the janitor.

We trudged back into the room and strained our necks and eyes looking at the light. It was too far from the floor for us to kill it with our bare hands.

In the end the light won out. It watched in triumph as we projected the slides anyway. It didn't bother much since the projector proved quite powerful. Now and then a strange man overalls came in to jiggle the light switches and look in at the timeclock. Once Mr. Barker asked him if he had a 22. The man mumbled something and left — probably to search for one.

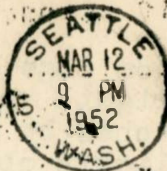
I wonder if anyone will ever discover how to turn that blasted light off?



A SUGGESTION

Leone

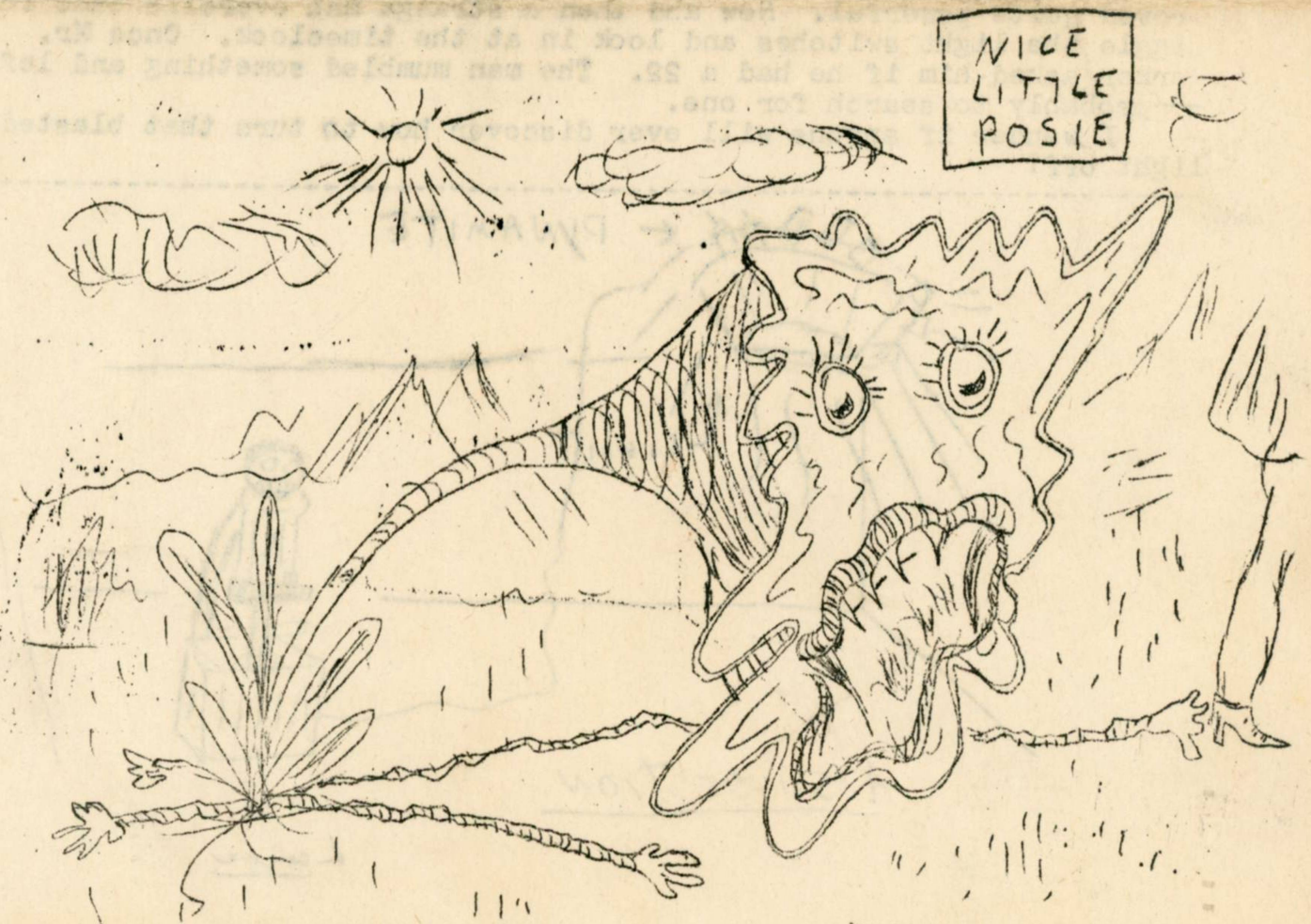
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